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CONSTITUTION

Adopted by Fourth Annual
CONVENTION DISTRICT No. 18,
U. M. W. of A.

HELD AT FERNIE, B. C.,
Dec. 20, 21, 22 & 23, 1905.

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CONSTITUTION

—ADOPTED BY—

Fourth Annual Convention

District No. 18

U. M. W. of A.

HELD AT

FERNIE, B. C., DECEMBER

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PREAMBLE.

It must be conceded by all that coal has been a potent factor in the development of all other industries and has played an important part in spreading civilization.

Therefore, believing that those whose lot it is to daily toil in the recesses of the earth producing this most valuable commodity are entitled to a fair and equitable share of the wealth they produce, we declare the following to be the object of our organization:

1.—To secure compensation fully compatible with the dangers of our occupation.

2.—To maintain our right to receive our pay in lawful money; to abolish the truck-store system.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.

Objects.

Section 1.—It is the aim of this Union to improve the material, intellectual and moral conditions of the toilers in and around the mines; we hold that these ends may only be attained by securing better conditions in the miner's labor, and by interesting them in the study of industrial and economical questions. We extend to all men in and around the mines, without regard to race or color, except Chinese and Japanese, an invitation to unite with us that these ends may be attained.

Section 2.—This organization shall be known as District No. 18 of the United Mine Workers of America, composed of all members of the Union within British Columbia and such other territory as has been or may hereafter be added to said district by the International Executive Board.

Section 3.—To secure all necessary appliances for the preservation of the health and lives of the mine workers.

Section 4.—To enforce existing laws and endeavor to secure the enactment of new laws in the interest of mine laborers.

Section 5.—To demand that eight hours shall constitute a day's work and that all coal be weighed before being screened.

Section 6.—To use every honorable means of maintaining peace between ourselves and our employers, resorting to a strike only when all peaceful means of adjusting difficulties have failed.

ARTICLE II.

Jurisdiction.

Section 1.—This Union shall have jurisdiction over all the Local Unions in District No. 18, United Mine Workers of America.

ARTICLE III.

Section 1.—The officers of this district to consist of President, Vice-President and Secretary-Treasurer. The Executive Council shall consist

of the officers and one member elected by each local union. At the first meeting of the Executive Council there shall be appointed an emergency committee to assist the District Officers, when necessary, the locals to make their own arrangements for the payment of their Executive Council members. The term of all officers shall be one year.

Section 2.—Disputes or grievances shall not be investigated by the District officers, unless requested to do so by the Local Union in writing, signed by the President and Secretary with the seal of the Local Union attached

Section 3.—It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of the District Executive Council; sign all documents, checks and vouchers when satisfied of their correctness. He shall by the consent of the Executive Council fill by appointment, pro tem, all vacancies occurring in the District Executive Council, but an election must be called within sixty days from the date of such vacancy to fill such office permanently. He shall also send out in circular form to all Lo-

cal Unions, six weeks prior to the holding of District Conventions, such recommendations as he may deem wise, or necessary, such recommendations to be voted upon at the District Convention.

Section 4.—It shall be the duty of the Vice-President to perform the duties of the President during his absence.

Section 5.—It shall be the duty of the Secretary-Treasurer to keep accurate minutes of the meetings in a book provided for the purpose, and he shall have charge of all books and documents belonging to the district; all monies to be deposited in such bank as may be designated by the Executive Council, also all accounts to be paid by check on order of President, Vice-President and Secretary-treasurer,

He shall receive all monies belonging to the district and pay all bills ordered by the President, when satisfied of their correctness. He shall be ready at all times to render an account of the financial standing of the District, when called upon by the Executive Council for such statement.

He shall give a bond in the sum of fifteen hundred dollars ($1,500) secured by a reliable

surety company, the same to be approved by the Executive Council, and deposited with the District President.

Section 6.—The meetings of the Executive Council shall be quarterly unless called together in special session by the president, at which meetings the President and all other officers shall make a full and complete report of their work since last meeting and submit the same for the approval or disproval or said Council, but it is herewith understood that all questions pertaining to a change of prices or conditions in any part of the District shall not be made without the consent of at least a majority of said Executive Council and Locals affected. It is also understood that no part or parts of this or other sections shall in any way interfere with any agreement or contract made and entered into with any Conference Committee who may have been elected or selected by this or any future convention of this district.

Section 7.—The official conduct of each officer of this district shall be a matter of consideration of the Executive Council during the interim of conventions; and should any officer give cause that would reflect on the dignity and best interests of our organization, it will be deemed

sufficient cause for the suspension of such officer, and said Council is hereby endowed with the authority to make such suspension of such officer, pending the action of the District Convention, but when suchsuch suspension or suspensions are made, each Local Union in the District shall be notified of the same.

Section 8 —The Executive Council shall have power to call special conventions of the District, when in their judgment they deem it neeessary; but, when called upon by a majority of Local Unions for a special convention, the Executive Council is herewith compelled to call and convene such convention.

And it shall also have the power to levy and collect assessments when necessary, the amount to be collected to be left to the discretion of the District Council.

Section 9.—When the Executive Council has good reason to believe that any Local Union is retaining any part of the per capita due the district, it is hereby empowered to investigate the matter, and shall have free access to the books of said Local Union or Unions in question, and if said reasons are well founded, said Local Un-

ion or Unions shall be dealt with as provided for in Section 3 of Article IV, National Constitution.

ARTICLE IV.

Section 1.—The members of this District shall be men in and around the mines, living in the territory comprising District No. 18. Any men working in and around the mines or coke ovens living in the district may become members of Local Union where they are employed when accepted upon the following conditions, viz: By paying an initiation fee of ten dollars ($10.00).

That 25 cents per member per month be paid to the National Organization, and 20 cents to the District, and the District per capita shall be subject to the call of the Secretary-Treasurer and all said per capita tax shall be due not later than the 15th day of each month for previous month; and a Local Union which is in arrears for three (3) months for the whole or any part of said Local Union, membership shall stand suspended until such arrears are paid, provided, however, that such Local Unions may be excused or exonerated from such arrears by Executive Counci

Boys under sixteen (16) years of age shall pay an initiation fee of two dollars and a half ($2.50).

provided that all boys going to school shall be exonerated from paying all dues and assessments while at school.

Section 2.—Any member who allows himself to get in arrears over three months, shall make application as a new member and shall pay full initiation fee of $10.00.

Section 3.—When any member, who has been suspended by a Local Union for any cause whatever or becomes suspended by trying to evade the payment of assessments, etc., desires reinstatement, he shall make application to the local Union to which he formerly belonged, providing that said Local Union is located in this District.

ARTICLE V.

Section 1.—Any member in good standing in his Local Union shall be eligible to hold a District office, provided he has been a member of the organization for at least twelve months.

ARTICLE VI.

Officers' Salaries.

Section 1.—The salary of the District President shall be $100.00 per month and legitimate expenses while in the service of District No. 18;

and the salary of the District Secretary-Treasurer shall be fixed according to the decision of the District Executive Council. All other executive council officers' salaries shall be $4.00 a day and all legitimate expenses but, no District officer shall receive any compensation for services when 50 per cent of the membership is on a strike, other than legitimate expenses while in the employment of District No. 18, but the same provision shall be made for them that is made for other members of the organization.

Section 2.—The District Headquarters shall be in Fernie, B. C., Canada.

ARTICLE VII.

Nominations and Elections.

Section 1.—The President, Vice-President and Secretary-Treasurer and one International Board Member shall be elected from the District at large.

Section 2 —No Local Union shall be entitled to more than one nomination for each District office.

Section 3.—Nominations for District Officers shall be made by each Local Union, and a list

of the nominees sent to the District Secretary-Treasurer not later than October 6th, and it shall be the duty of the Executive Council at their regular session in October to compile a list of the nominees and have them on an official ballot and referred to each Local Union not later than October 12th. The elections to be conducted as follows:

(a.) The election shall be held on the 1st Monday of December, commencing at 10 a. m. and closing at 8 p. m.

(b.) Each Local Union shall make arrangements for an Election Board, said Board to be composed of at least three members of the Local Union who are in good standing.

(c.) That each Local Union shall designate such place as they may see fit for the Election Board to sit.

(d.) Ballots must be given only to members who are in good standing in the Local Union, and only after the members have entered the election room.

(e.) After a member has received his ballot, the clerks shall be given his name; he shall then proceed to mark it at a desk. Should a member

need assistance to mark his ballot, he shall apply to the Election Board for such assistance as he may need; and it shall be unlawful to carry any ballots out of the room in which the election is held.

(f.) After the polls have been closed it shall be the duty of the judges and clerks to count the ballots and keep a correct tally of the same, a copy of which must be sent to the District Secretary-Treasurer, together with all ballots used, unused and defective, and all ballots to be voted shall be marked "official" on the back thereof.

(g.) All Local Unions shall notify their members of an election for District officers, any member or members failing to vote shall be fined one dollar ($1.00) by the Local Union, unless a satisfactory reason or excuse be given.

(h) The candidate or candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected after the votes have been counted by the official auditors of the District. The officers elected shall take office on the 1st day of January, The official count to be compiled and sent to each Local Union.

(i.) Any local Union voting "lump sum" or

allowing voting by proxy, or otherwise violating any of the above clauses, shall have its entire vote thrown out.

Section 4.—Three Auditors shall be elected at each annual election, to examine District officers' books quarterly, but in time of trouble, when relief funds are donated, the Auditors may call upon the district officers for a monthly statement on financial matters, and further, it will be the duty of this Auditing Committee to see that District officers keep all accounts of strike funds and per capita separate. Said Auditors shall constitute the official scrutineering Board.

ARTICLE VIII.

Section 1.—The Annual Convention shall be held on the 2nd Wednesday of December.

Section 2.—Delegates to the Annual Convention shall be entitled to one vote for every 100 members or fraction thereof, but no one delegate shall have more than five votes. The basis of representation shall be upon the average paid up membership for the three months previous to Annual Convention.

Section 3.—All newly organized Locals must

be organized at least one month prior to the Annual Convention and have one month's dues paid prior to same before they will be entitled to representation, unless said new Locals are composed of members from old Locals in good standing at time of organization; the fact that a new Local is comprised of members of an old Local must be attested by the District Secretary.

Section 4.—All matters of important business pertaining to District No. 18 shall be referred to each Local Union, and a majority vote by them shall be final.

Section 5.—This Constitution may be changed, amended or abrogated at any time by a majority of all votes cast by the Local Unions, provided that only members in good standing be allowed to vote.

ARTICLE IX.

Section 1.—The International Constitution shall govern in regard to transfers cards.

Section 2.—It shall be the duty of the Pi committee to accompany the Mine Inspector in the investigation of all accidents in and about

the mines and make a report of the same in detail to the Local Union.

ARTICLE X.

Section 1.—That a Strike or Defence Fund be established and the amount of 25 cents per member per month be paid to the District Secretary-Treasurer along with the District per capita for strike or lockout purposes.

Section 2.—The term strike or lockout shall be applied to a member or members ordered to suspend work by the District or National Executive Board, and members shall only be entitled to receive aid from said fund after being locked out or on strike for thirty (30) days or more, except in case of necessity.

In case of a lockout over which the members have no control the Executive Council is hereby empowered to render such financial aid as in their judgment the case demands.

Note.—The word "lockout" shall not apply to members who are thrown idle on account of mine or mines being shut down for repairs, or abandoned.

ARTICLE XI.

There shall be a stamp system for the purpose of correctly receipting all members who pay per capita tax, which shall be applied in the following manner, viz:—

The District Secretary-Treasurer shall return to all Local Union Secretaries a stamp for each member from which he receives per capita tax and assessments, the same to be properly credited to each member as his official receipt for his money. A card day shall be provided by each Local Union every month, upon which day every individual member must see to it that his dues and assessments are properly credited for, by receiving a stamp from the Local Union for the same. The stamp system shall be in force and effect as soon as Constitution is adopted.

ARTICLE XII.

Section 1.—That a n International Password be given to each Local Union in good standing, every quarter, the same to be sent by the District Secretary-Treasurer through the District President.

ARTICLE XIII.

Section 1.—Day hands may work on idle days,

but all day work shall be equally divided among the day hands.

Section 2.—The President shall be empowered to select a Credential Committee to consist of three members, who shall examine all credentials on the 1st day of the Annual Convention.

Section 3.—The Secretary-Treasurer's books shall be closed on the 31st day of October for the purpose of preparing his annual report.

Section 4.—That no miner or mine laborer shall be allowed to hold two jobs in or about the mine. This rule shall apply to mines employing 40 men or more.

Section 5.—That the term of District officers be for one (1) year, and that they tender their undated resignation on the day of their installation of office to be dated by the District Board or by the majority of the Locals when they deem it necessary to do so.

Section 6 —That no member shall take a special contract in a mine for which an agreement is in force without first obtaining the consent of the Local Union; that no member shall contract for any work in a new mine without first obtaining the consent of the Local and Dis-

trict Unions; and that no member shall work for anyone violating this rule. Any member violating this rule will be expelled from the U. M. W. of A.

Section 7.—That this Constitution as adopted at Fernie December 20, 21, 22, and 23, 1905, shall be in effect immediately after they are printed.

Section 8.—That the District President pay an official visit at least once every year to address the Local as to the working of the organization.

RULES AND ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1.—The hours for opening the Convention shall be 9 a. m. and 1 p. m.

The hours for closing shall be 12 m. and 5 p. m.

2.—No discussion shall be allowed without a motion duly seconded before Convention.

3.—No delegates shall be allowed to speak more than once until all have spoken who desire to speak, and then only by consent of the chair.

4.—The asking and answering of questions is permissable at any time at the discretion and ruling of the chair.

5.—That any delegates using profane language on the floor shall be required to apologize to the Convention for the same.

6.—That any delegate coming to the Convention under the influence of liquor, shall be reprimanded by the Chairman of the Convention, and shall be reported by District Secretary-Treasurer to his Local Union.

7.—This Convention shall be governed by Cushing's Manual, unless otherwise provided for.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1.—Report of Credential Committee

2.—Selection of following Committees: On Resolutions, Scale, Grievances, Constitution, Press, and Officers' Report.

3.—Report of officers.

4.—Good of the Order and discussion of same

5.—Report of Resolution Committee.

6.—Report of Grievance Committee.

7.—Report of Constitution Committee.

8.—Report of Scale Committee.

9.—The Election of a Conference Committee.

10.—The Press Committee to perform their duties at suitable intervals.